



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8**

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April 2, 2009

D.C. Orr  
P.O. Box 1268  
Libby, MT 59923

Dear Mr. Orr:

I have reviewed the following letters and messages that you have recently sent to Rebecca Thomas and Ted Linnert discussing your concerns regarding EPA activities at the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site:

- March 1, 2009 letter pertaining to OU 1 and 2 to Rebecca Thomas
- March 20, 2009 email to Ted Linnert
- March 30, 2009 email to Ted Linnert and CAG

I understand that your letters contain your perspective on EPA actions. I have noted your position and will include your letters and messages in EPA's official site files for the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site.

There are a couple of issues raised in your letters and messages that I would like to respond to:

- First, I believe the personal attacks in your letters detract from your message. EPA employees and contractors working on the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site are highly qualified and dedicated professionals. Unfortunately, sometimes miscommunications are made. I know their intent was not malicious.
- Second, in order for EPA to conduct its work, EPA attends many meetings, some are announced to the public and some are not. Two of the meetings you specifically identified are the Healthy Communities Initiative and the O & M Workgroup. Both of these meetings are important to EPA's activities in Libby. The Healthy Communities Initiative is a loosely organized informal conversation regarding regional economic development issues. The O & M workgroup is a public forum lead by EPA to discuss alternatives to managing LA contaminated materials in the interim as well as in the long-term. As key issues are identified by these and other groups EPA meets with, they will be discussed with the public during EPA sponsored public meetings. In addition, the public will have the opportunity to comment on proposed cleanup strategies during the proposed plan comment period prior to each Record of Decision.

Please feel free to continue to contact me with your concerns regarding EPA activities in Libby.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victor Ketellapper', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Victor Ketellapper, Team Leader  
Libby Asbestos Superfund Site